



Natural Resources Conservation Service
900 Robert Street, Suite 102
Alexandria, MN 56308

70 Years
"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"

Phone: (320) 763-3191, Ext. 3
FAX: (320) 762-5502

March 24, 2005

Dear Farm Operator,

SUBJECT: CSP Second Meeting Notice

The final rule for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and sign up period for 2005 was announced by USDA's **Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns** last week in Washington DC. *"This is a unique program that offers payments for enhancing natural resources and rewarding those farmers who are model conservationists and our best stewards"* said Johanns.

The CSP sign-up will be held March 28 through May 27, 2005 for farmers located in the Sauk Watershed. To prepare for signup and the interview appointments, you should attend one of the public meetings to **receive the CSP Certification Worksheets**. The meeting scheduled in Douglas County will be **April 5th at 10:00 at the Correll Supper Club in Nelson, MN** CSP Certification Worksheets, which are required by NRCS before accepting applications, will be distributed at the meetings. CSP applications will be accepted by NRCS in the USDA Service Center, **by appointment only**. Other meeting location and dates are scheduled for **March 30th and April 5th starting at 10:00 AM in the Freeport Community Center** and, **April 4th and April 11th at 9:30 in the Long Prairie City Hall**.

Anyone interested in signing up for CSP, must complete a Self-Assessment workbook **and the CSP Certification Worksheets**. These will also be available at the local NRCS offices.

At the meetings NRCS will provide details on **CSP eligibility, signup processes and payment rates**. **Remember, you cannot schedule an appointment** without the completed CSP workbook and Certification Worksheets.

Detailed information about CSP in Minnesota and Certification Worksheets can be found at: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html>.

Sincerely,

Mark Dybdal
District Conservationist